Claims

1. A drive unit (2) of a drilling machine (1), with a drive having at least two drive wheels (27, 37) being provided in a drive housing (6) and at least one endless drive (58, 59) being guided around the drive wheels,

characterized in

that the drive housing in the area of at least one of the drive wheels comprises at least one bay-like bulge (11, 12, 16, 17, 18) which extends over a circumferential section (67, 68) of the drive wheel near the drive wheel.

2. The drive unit according to claim 1,

characterized in

that at least one bulge (11, 12, 16, 18) is provided at both longitudinal sides (13, 14) of the drive housing (6).

3. The drive unit according to any one of claims 1 or 2,

characterized in

that the bulge (11, 12, 16, 17, 18) extends approximately arcuately near the drive wheel (27, 37).

4. The drive unit according to at least one of the preceding claims,

characterized in

that the bay-like bulge (11, 12, 16, 17, 18) in its extension near the drive wheel (27, 37) is narrower in portions and extends at least towards a housing center (64) in funnel-like fashion spaced apart from the drive wheel.

5. The drive unit according to at least one of the preceding claims, characterized in

that an inner radius (60) of the bay-like bulge (11, 12) is larger than an outer radius (55) of the drive wheel (27) and is eccentric thereto.

6. The drive unit according to at least one of the preceding claims, characterized in

that the bay-like bulge (11, 12, 16, 17, 18) extends spaced-apart from the drive wheel (27, 37) at a distance between 5 mm and 65 mm, preferably between 8 mm and 28 mm.

7. The drive unit according to at least one of the preceding claims, characterized in

that the bay-like bulge (11, 12, 16, 17, 18) extends on a circumferential portion (67, 68) between 30° and 130°, preferably about 90°, of the drive wheel (27, 37) near said wheel.

8. The drive unit according to at least one of the preceding claims,

characterized in

that the bulge (11) is provided on an upper and/or a lower side (24, 25) of a roof-like transition portion (22, 23), which establishes a transition between an outer portion (21) of the bulge (11) extending along the circumference of the drive wheel (27) and the portion (26) of the drive housing (6) adjoining the bulge.

9. The drive unit according to claim 8,

characterized in

that the transition portion (22, 23) is shaped in the form of a conical surface at least sectionwise.

10. The drive unit according to any one of claims 8 or 9, characterized in

that the drive housing (6) is divided at least sectionwise, the division being provided in the area of the bulge (11) above the transition portion (23) of the lower side (25) of the bulge (11).

11. The drive unit according to at least one of the preceding claims, characterized in

that an upper member (42) of the drive housing (6) is pivotable to a face (20) of the drive housing.

12. The drive unit according to at least one of the preceding claims, characterized in

that a rib-like profile (82) is provided on an inner housing side (70) of the bay-like bulge (11).

13. A drilling machine (1) comprising a drive unit (2) according to at least one of the preceding claims.